

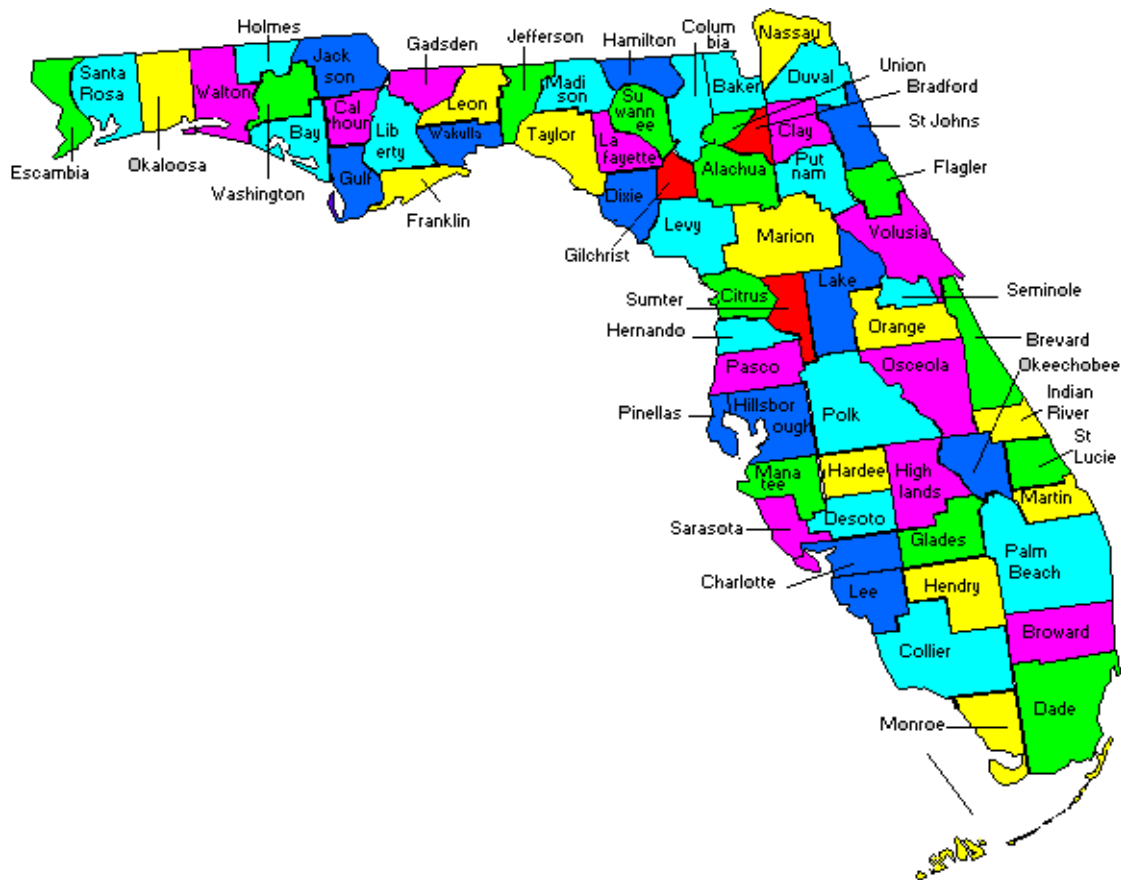
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Florida

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Florida

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 12,937,926 (1990 Census); 15,111,244 (1999 estimate)
- Gender: 6,261,719 male (48%), 6,676,207 female (52%)
- Race/Ethnicity: 83% white; 13.6% African American; 0.3% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 1.2% Asian or Pacific Islander; 1.8% other race; 12.2% Hispanic.

Politics²

- Governor: Jeb Bush
- Attorney General: Bob Butterworth
- Secretary of State: Katherine Harris
- U.S. Senators: Bob Graham (D), Connie Mack (R)
- U.S. Representatives (district): Michael Bilirakis (9); Allen Boyd (2); Corrine Brown (3); Charles T. Canady (12); Jim Davis (11); Peter Deutsch (20); Lincoln Diaz-Balart (21); Mark Foley (16); Tillie Fowler (4); Porter Goss (14); Alcee L. Hastings (23); Ileana Ross-Lehtinen (18); Bill McCollum (8); Carrie Meek (17); John Mica (7); Dan Miller (13); Deana Ros-Lehtinen (18); Joe Scarborough (1); E. Clay Shaw Jr. (22); Cliff Stearns (6); Karen Thurman (5); Dave Weldon (15); Robert Wexler (19); and C.W. Bill Young (10).

Programs/Initiatives

- FY 1999 Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees awarded by ONDCP in conjunction with Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):³
 - \$100,000.00 to the Consolidated City of Jacksonville
 - \$100,000.00 to Corner Drug Store, Inc. of Gainesville
 - \$100,000.00 to Mayor's Drug Free Communities, Inc. of Bradenton
 - \$100,000.00 to The Grove Counseling Center, Inc. of Longwood
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed⁴
 - Tallahassee became a Weed and Seed funded site in 1996. The original target area was a housing development that centers on the Springfield Apartment Complex and the area directly surrounding this community. In 1997/1998 the Tallahassee Weed and Seed program expanded to include a second site, Murat Hills, one mile from the original Weed and Seed neighborhood.
 - In September 1993, the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission implemented the first Weed and Seed Program in the county. The first site is located in Northwest Riviera Beach. In June 1996, the City of West Palm Beach Police Department, in a joint effort with the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission Weed and Seed Program, applied for and was subsequently awarded official Weed and Seed designation for the Pleasant City/Northwest Area of West Palm Beach. Both of these sites represent the highest crime and lowest socioeconomic areas of the county.

- The Weed and Seed Grant Program was awarded to the City of Tampa in 1994. Numerous at-risk neighborhoods were evaluated and an east Tampa neighborhood was selected as the Weed and Seed target site. This area was comprised predominantly of the public housing complexes of College Hill Homes and Ponce de Leon Homes and has always been considered the 'worst of the worst' having the highest incidences of violent crime and drug-related offenses in the city.
- The Miami/Miami- Dade Weed & Seed was designated as an Officially Recognized Weed and Seed site by the Executive Office for Weed and Seed/Office of Justice Programs/U.S. Department of Justice in October 1996.
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) in Florida:⁵
 - Designated in 1998, the Central Florida HIDTA is responsible for Hillsborough, Orange, Osceola, Pinellas, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia counties. This area, commonly referred to as the I-4 corridor, encompasses 3 international airports, 2 major seaports, and several hundred miles of coastline.
 - The South Florida HIDTA was designated in 1990 and is composed of Monroe, Dade, and Broward Counties. Since this time, this HIDTA has successfully dismantled drug trafficking organizations and gangs, arrested drug-involved career criminals and violent offenders, and made major inroads in dismantling the Medellin and Cali Cartels. Miami's close proximity to drug producing countries, along with its seaports, airports, and international banking enterprises, make it a major target of criminal enterprise.

Crime & Drug-Related Crime

- During 1998 there were 14,522 juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations in Florida.⁶

Arrests in Florida, 1998

Offense	Juveniles	Total
Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	97	812
Forcible Rape	352	2,266
Robbery	2,639	10,043
Aggravated Assault	7,530	45,124
Burglary	11,582	29,580
Larceny-theft	30,666	98,802
Motor Vehicle Theft	5,013	14,547
Arson	16,689	92,910
Drug Abuse Violations	14,522	135,490
Driving Under the Influence	362	53,886
Liquor Laws	2,085	27,301

- From January to June of 1999, there were already 7,911 juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations in Florida. For adults, this number had already surpassed 63,000 for the same time period.⁷
- During 1999, 63.8% of adult male arrestees and 67.9% of adult female arrestees tested positive for drug use in Ft. Lauderdale. 92.3% of the females arrested for drug possession tested positive for drug use at the time of their arrests.⁸

Percent Positive for Drugs, By Offense Category, Ft. Lauderdale, 1999

Offense Category	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth.		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	25.2	26.8	38.5	26.8	0.0	0.0	51.0	44.6
Property	47.3	45.0	42.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	69.6	68.3
Drug	63.8	79.6	45.5	34.4	1.4	0.0	86.4	91.4
Sales	57.6	33.3	51.5	33.3	0.0	0.0	81.8	66.7
Possession	65.6	80.2	45.0	35.2	1.6	0.0	87.8	92.3
Prostitution	0.0	88.9	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	88.9
Other	35.4	51.4	38.7	26.7	0.5	0.0	59.4	65.1

- In Miami during 1999, 66.0% of male arrestees tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrest.⁹

Percent Positive for Drugs, Males, By Offense Category, Miami, 1999

Offense Category	Cocaine	Marijuana	PCP	Any Drug
Violent	40.0	33.5	0.4	57.0
Property	48.9	33.0	0.0	66.3
Drug	73.3	45.3	0.0	89.1
Sales	70.6	47.1	0.0	82.4
Possession	73.9	45.2	0.0	90.4
Prostitution	25.0	37.5	0.0	50.0
Other	42.2	37.9	0.3	59.3

Drugs¹⁰

- Cocaine and Crack
In Miami, local cocaine abuse outranks other drug problems. According to the Florida International University/Miami Coalition 1997 school survey, crack has replaced cocaine HCl among youthful abusers. High-speed boats from the Bahamas and slow freighters from Haiti are continually being seen as the means of trafficking cocaine to Miami.
- Heroin/Morphine
In Miami, heroin-related deaths, ED mentions, and requests for treatment are escalating. Younger and newer users are increasingly being identified among heroin's victims in each of these indicators. There is mass trafficking of heroin into south Florida from Colombian sources usually being transported through the Caribbean or Central America. Miami has served as a main gateway into the U.S. for heroin and has been considered the organizational center for its distribution across the U.S. By the mid-90's central Florida had also become a key heroin importation center.
- Marijuana/Hashish
In Miami, supplies of Caribbean- and Latin American-produced marijuana continue to be reported less than the higher potency domestic varieties. Compared with 23.7%

nationally, 11.6% of Miami-Dade County's 12th graders reported being current users of marijuana.

➤ Other Drugs

- Abuse patterns for the stimulant methamphetamine, often deceptively sold as MDMA, have not emerged in Miami-Dade County even as the drug's abuse is spreading in other parts of Florida. Despite this, methamphetamine availability continues to be mentioned by drug users associated with the South (Miami) Beach club lifestyle.
- In Miami, MDMA ("ecstasy" or "XTC") is used by adolescents, young adults and particularly bar and dance club customers.
- GHB (Gamma-hydroxybutyrate) has replaced Rohypnol (flunitrazepam) in Miami as the fastest growing new problem in the depressant category. Following local (Miami), Florida, and Federal actions directed at controlling Rohypnol's wide-scale diversion from foreign pharmaceutical sources, the availability and abuse of this drug dramatically declined in 1997. Both houses of the Florida Legislature voted unanimously in March 1997 to make Rohypnol a Schedule I controlled substance. This same law made GHB a Schedule II controlled substance in Florida. Over the past 2 years, GHB in combination with alcohol has been responsible for a dramatic increase in medical emergencies associated with the drug. In Miami, 5.4% of the 1997 GHB emergency clients were younger than 20. By the first quarter of 1998, that figure rose to 53% as younger users gained access to GHB.
- Concerning hallucinogens, availability and abuse of LSD continue to be widely reported in Miami.

Juveniles¹¹

- A survey of Florida high school students in 1999 showed that 43.9% had used marijuana at least once in their lifetime and 23.1% were current marijuana users.

Percent of Florida High School Students Using Selected Drugs, 1999

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use	40.2	47.4	43.9
Current Marijuana Use	20.0	25.9	23.1
Lifetime Cocaine Use	8.7	11.1	10.0
Current Cocaine Use	4.2	6.3	5.4
Lifetime Inhalant Use	12.9	14.4	13.8
Current Inhalant Use	3.5	5.3	4.4
Lifetime Heroin Use	4.3	6.1	5.2
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	8.5	11.6	10.1
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	2.7	6.8	4.9
Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use	2.2	5.1	3.7
Tried Marijuana Before Age 13	7.7	15.7	11.8

Enforcement

- Central Florida HIDTA Initiatives:¹²

- Central Florida Methamphetamine Task Force: targets major methamphetamine trafficking organizations based in the Central Florida area.
 - Colombian/South American Drug Trafficking Organizations Task Force: aims at reducing the sale and distribution of powder cocaine, crack cocaine, and heroin within the Tampa Bay area.
 - Central Florida Heroin Task Force: targets the most significant heroin trafficking organizations in Central Florida.
- South Florida HIDTA Initiatives:¹³
- Southeast Florida Regional Task Force: conducts money laundering and drug trafficking investigations, seizes illicit drugs, related profits and assets, and prosecutes members of DTOs to disrupt and destroy drug and money laundering organizations utilized by traffickers.
 - Other initiatives include the following: North Broward Drug Enforcement Unit; Miami HIDTA Task Force; Cali Cartel Enforcement Group; and the Gang Strike Force.
- As of October 31, 1998, there were 62,497 full-time law enforcement employees in Florida. Approximately 37,000 of these employees were officers.¹⁴

Courts

- Drug Court Program Office
- The Escambia County Juvenile Drug Court Treatment Program, which began operations in April 1996, is a 12-month, three-phase approach to substance abuse treatment. The drug court judge supervises and reinforces treatment of up to 40 offenders by reviewing reports from the treatment provider to determine the use of either positive or negative incentives to encourage compliance.¹⁵
 - The Broward County Drug Court, established in 1991, is the third oldest drug court program in the country. As of July 1999, this court had a caseload of 800. At this time, the program was expanding which would allow for the handling of approximately 400 more cases.¹⁶
 - As of March 31, 2000, there were 36 drug courts in Florida. At this same time, there were also 10 drug courts being planned.¹⁷

Number of Drug Courts Implemented, Florida, by County, March 31, 2000

County	Number	County	Number
Alachua	1	Manatee	2
Bay	3	Marion	2
Brevard	1	Monroe	6
Broward	2	Okaloosa	1
Dade	2	Orange	2
Duval	2	Polk	2
Escambia	3	Sarasota	1
Hillsborough	2	Volusia	2
Leon	2		

- During FY 1998, 52.6% of the Federally sentenced offenders in Florida had committed a drug offense. 39.5% of these offenses involved powder cocaine, 24.2% involved crack cocaine, 13.9% involved heroin, 16.5% involved marijuana, 4.4% involved methamphetamine, and 1.1% involved a different drug.¹⁸

Corrections

- At midyear 1999 (June 30), there were 68,599 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in Florida.¹⁹
- At the end of 1999 (December 31), there were 292,399 adults on probation in Florida. This is a 3.0% increase in the probation population from the beginning of the year when there were 283,965 adults on probation in Florida. Florida ranks fourth (behind Texas, California, and Georgia) among States having the highest adult probation population.²⁰
- There was a 1.1% decrease in the number of adults on parole in Florida during 1999. At the beginning of the year, there were 6,487 adults on parole, and at the end of the year, there were 6,418.²¹

Trafficking and Seizures

- In 1998, there were a total of 55,311 marijuana plants eradicated in Florida.²²

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Florida, 1998

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
442	33,083	162	22,228	55,311

- The total value of all assets seized in Florida for 1998 related to marijuana eradication and seizures totaled \$1,776,159.²³
- According to the *1998 National Gang Survey*, over 80% of the gangs operating in the Central Florida HIDTA region are involved in drug trafficking. Many of these DTOs acquire the drugs from South Florida after these drugs have arrived in the U.S. from the Caribbean.²⁴
- All of the major heroin trafficking and seizures made in FY 1998 in the Central Florida region were related to Colombian heroin. It is estimated that 90% of the total heroin available in Central Florida originates in Colombia.²⁵

Consequences of Use

- From January to June 1999, there were 3,320 Emergency Department (ED) drug episodes in Miami.²⁶
- At this same time, there were 5,606 ED drug mentions in Miami.²⁷

Estimated Number of ED Drug Mentions, Miami, Jan-June 1999

Cocaine	Heroin/ Morphine	Marijuana/ Hashish
1,846	453	563

- In 1998 there were 273 cocaine-related drug abuse deaths reported by Medical Examiners (ME) in the Miami District.²⁸
- During this same time, there were 61 heroin-related deaths in this district.²⁹
- Cocaine was mentioned in 82.2% of these deaths and heroin/morphine was mentioned in 27.0% of these deaths. Marijuana/hashish and methadone were each mentioned in 1.1% of these drug abuse deaths.

Treatment³⁰

- From July to December 1997, 83% of the people who entered treatment in Miami with marijuana as the primary substance of abuse were males.

Treatment Admissions, by Primary Substance of Use, Miami, July-December 1997

Demographic Characteristics	Cocaine %	Heroin %	Marijuana %	Stimulant/ Methamphet %
Gender				
Male	73	74	83	83
Female	27	26	17	17
Race/Ethnicity				
White	28	59	25	65
African American	47	21	48	35
Hispanic	34	31	33	12
Haitian	1	0	1	0

Sources

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- ² State of Florida web site: <http://www.piperinfo.com/state/slfl.html>
- ³ Drug-Free Communities Grantees: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.fob/prevent/drugfree/1999/chart99.html>
- ⁴ Weed and Seed: <http://www.weedseed.org/>
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- ⁷ Florida Department of Law Enforcement : <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/index.asp>
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- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse*, January 1999, <http://www.cdmgroup.com/cewg/docs/1298-miami/1298adv.htm>
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- ¹⁴ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports*, 1998, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr>
- ¹⁵ Drug Court Program Office: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/>
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- ²⁶ Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA, *Mid-Year 1999 Preliminary Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, March 2000,
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- ²⁸ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *1998 Report of Cocaine Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners*, http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Publications/cocaine_heroin_1998/cocaine.asp
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- ³⁰ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse*, January 1999,
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